

**ATTACHMENT 1:**

**DECISION MATRIX TABLE,** Policy Table for Wetland<sup>g</sup> Related Activities

<b>Current Habitat</b>	<b>Final Habitat</b>	<b>Acre gain</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Subcategory</b>
Upland <sup>b</sup> , not former wetland	Some type of wetland	yes	<b>Establishment<sup>1</sup></b>	
Deepwater habitat <sup>c</sup> , not former wetland	Some type of wetland	yes	<b>Establishment</b>	
Former Wetland <sup>d</sup> , now upland	Some type of wetland	yes	<b>Restoration<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Re-establishment<sup>2</sup></b> (rebuilding)
Former Wetland now unvegetated shallow coastal open water (due to subsidence/sea level rise)	Some type of wetland	yes	<b>Restoration</b>	<b>Re-establishment</b> (rebuilding)
Deepwater habitats, former wetland	Some type of wetland	yes	<b>Restoration</b>	<b>Re-establishment</b> (rebuilding)
Degraded wetland <sup>e</sup> with one or more damaged functions	Original (pre-disturbance) wetland or same type of wetland with one or more original functions fully or partially repaired.	no	<b>Restoration</b>	<b>Rehabilitation<sup>2</sup></b> (repairing)
Degraded wetland or Fully Functioning	Same type of wetland with one or more selected functions heightened, intensified, or improved. or Different wetland with different functions for the purpose of improved water quality, habitat, or flood control functions.	no	<b>Enhancement<sup>3</sup></b>  INCLUDES  Enhancement and Management and Manipulation and Directed Alteration	For: Wetland Dependent Fish and Wildlife Habitat or Flood Water Retention or On Site Water Quality Improvement
Any wetland	Same exact wetland	no	<b>Protection/Maintenance<sup>4</sup></b> also includes Preservation	

## ATTACHMENT 2:

# DEFINITIONS

### CATEGORIES OF WETLANDS<sup>a</sup> CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

**1. Establishment** - the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop a wetland on an upland<sup>b</sup> or deepwater<sup>c</sup> site that did not previously exist. Establishment results in a gain in wetland acres.

**2. Restoration** - the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded wetland. For the purpose of tracking net gains in wetland acres, restoration is divided into:

**Re-establishment** - the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to former wetland<sup>d</sup>. Re-establishment results in rebuilding a former wetland and results in a gain in wetland acres.

**Rehabilitation** - the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions of degraded wetland<sup>e</sup>. Rehabilitation results in a gain in wetland function but does not result in a gain in wetland acres.

**3. Enhancement** - the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a wetland (undisturbed or degraded) site to heighten, intensify, or improve specific function(s) or to change the growth stage or composition of the vegetation present. Enhancement is undertaken for a purpose such as water quality improvement, flood water retention or wildlife habitat. Enhancement results in a change in wetland function(s), but does not result in a gain in wetland acres. This term includes activities commonly associated with the terms enhancement, management, manipulation, directed alteration.

**4. Protection/Maintenance** - the removal of a threat to, or preventing decline of, wetland conditions by an action in or near a wetland. Includes purchase of land or easements, repairing water control structures or fences, or structural protection such as repairing a barrier island. This term also includes activities commonly associated with the term preservation. Protection/Maintenance does not result in a gain of wetland acres or function.

### CURRENT CONDITION OF LAND, PRIOR TO WETLAND CONSERVATION ACTIVITY

**a. Wetlands (non-agricultural lands):** The COE (Federal Register 1982) and the EPA (Federal Register 1980) jointly define wetlands as: Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or

ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

**Wetlands (agricultural lands):** 1985 Food Security Act. Wetland is defined as land that; 1. has a predominance of hydric soils **and** 2. is inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances does support, a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. A Normal circumstances@refers to the soil and hydrologic conditions that are normally present, without regard to whether the vegetation has been removed. All three wetland criteria, hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and wetland hydrology, normally must be met for an area to be identified as wetland.

**b. Uplands:** Uplands are neither deepwater habitats nor wetlands. They are seldom or never inundated, or if frequently inundated, they have saturated soils for only brief periods during the growing season, and, if vegetated, they normally support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life only in aerobic soil conditions.

**c. Deepwater Habitat:** Deepwater habitats are permanently flooded lands lying below the deepwater boundary of wetlands. The boundary between wetland and deepwater habitat in tidal areas is the elevation of the extreme low water of spring tides. The boundary between wetlands and the deepwater habitats of lakes and rivers lies at a depth of 2 meters (6.6 feet) below low water. If emergents, shrubs, or trees grow beyond this depth at any time, their deepwater edge is the boundary.

**d. Former Wetland:** An area that once was a wetland but it has been modified to the point it no longer has the hydrologic characteristics of a wetland. The area is considered to be upland. Formerly vegetated shallow coastal open water areas are also considered to be Aformer wetlands@because when they were converted from wetland marshes to open water areas, this conversion was considered to be a loss of wetland acreage both by the Fish and Wildlife Service=s wetlands Status and Trends and Natural Resources Conservation Service=s National Resources Inventory. Former wetlands include by definition Prior Converted Croplands (PC) and, by determination, other areas that no longer meet the jurisdictional criteria for wetlands.

**Prior converted wetland (PC):** Wetlands that before December 23, 1985, were drained, dredged, filled, leveled, or otherwise manipulated for the purpose of, or to have the effect of, making the production of an agricultural commodity possible. (National Food Security Act Manual)

**e. Degraded Wetland:** A wetland with one or more functions reduced, impaired, or damaged due to human activity. When determining whether or not a wetland is degraded, consider: physical alteration, including the conversion of a wetland from one system (e.g., estuarine or marine) to a different system; chemical contamination; and biological alteration, including the significant presence of non-indigenous invasive species.